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the reminder

ZONE 2 INDEPENDENCE & SPRINGFIELD TOWNSHIP VOLUME 5 NUMBER 12 DECEMBER 10, 1981

"State of the Township"

by Carol Balzarini

Following thirteen months in office, Independence Township Supervisor James B. Smith reviewed the "State of the Township" much as the Governor and the President deliver annual messages on the state of their respective governments.

When asked to describe the state of the township when he took office in November of 1980, Smith replied, "...about as I expected...There had been good effort put forth but a vacuum existed in terms of long range administrative planning and a number of procedures that evolved without much structural documentation."

"There was also the challenge," he continued, "of maintaining services in the face of a constricting budgetary situation. The management team very rapidly set about the development of new budgeting on a basis of cash management. This has resulted...in operation on a deficit-free basis and with the discharge of existing overruns so that we're now preparing the 1982-83 budget without some of the problems which confronted us when the new board took office."

"The cooperation of the departmental managers has been splendid in achieving it. Each now has a monthly operating base of revenues and expenditures for his department and realizes deviations in either one requires action to keep that department in within the budgetary limits," Smith concluded.

Smith emphasized employee morale was good. The township has developed a "policy of forthright handling of problems in regard to the unions...we have eliminated wide areas of misunderstanding and questionable interpretations. There is now an aura of trust and cooperation throughout the township staff."

The supervisor also felt it was important to note another aspect of that good morale: communication. "We have established communications between management and employees, management and elected officials, department heads and the board. There is a team concept," he said. "We have monthly meetings helping to understand each other's problems and the total



Patricia Peterson of the Davisburg Scotties gets help from her two young daughters, Tammy and Sheri, displaying her crafts at their Christmas Crafts Fest booth, the Davisburg Hotel.

problems."

As a related item, Smith added the work of one of his many appointed task forces has resulted in a manual of written policies and procedures. Smith hopes this will set standards that will continue to function even if changes in administration occur. This manual has just been submitted to the supervisor and will be discussed by the entire township board at its December 15 meeting or the first one in January.

Another task force report submitted recently was compiled by the group looking into business practices. They have suggested texts for both a budgeting ordinance and a purchasing ordinance tailored to the needs of the township, plus a number of

"significant recommendations for controlling cash flow, budgeting philosophy, and guidelines for evaluation of future computer needs," Smith revealed.

When asked to assess the results of significant changes in professional services, those for which the township contracts, Smith smiled and said, "It is generally agreed we have improved our lot."

The first change occurred when long time township engineers Johnson and Anderson were replaced by Bloomfield-based Hubbell, Roth and Clark, Inc. Reasons for the change were cited as "quality of work and question

Continued on Page 6

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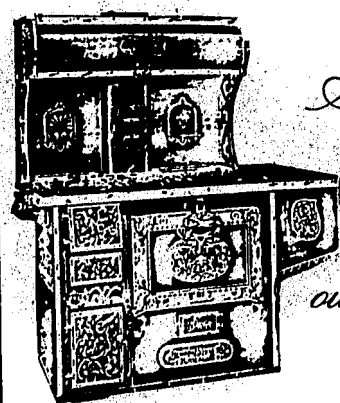
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Clarkston Couple Married for the Second Time

by Denise Fox Luczki

Nowadays people tend to wait a few years before getting married. Not so with Mary Anne Higginbotham and David Lowe of Clarkston. Both 19, they were married last Saturday, November 28, for the second time.

The first time Mary Anne and David were married was two years ago, during their senior year at Clarkston High School. The wedding was a class project for their Family Living class and the marriage only lasted until the end of the class period. Last Saturday's wedding was no project; Mary Anne and David decided to make it real.

A steady couple since junior high, Mary Anne and Davis were likely candidates for the class to choose for the mock wedding. In fact, since eleventh grade, they had planned on getting married some day and found the mock wedding a great help in their real relationship.

Dave's pastor, Reverend Walters, Clarkston Calvary Lutheran Church, counseled the couple in front of the class about a week before the mock wedding.

"The counseling brought out things we never would have thought of discussing," Mary Anne explained, such as budget plans, future children, religion, and division of the housework.

Dave concurred: "We thought a lot about it and talked over what we discussed in the counseling."

When asked if the mock wedding hastened their real marriage Dave shook his head and answered: "If anything it discouraged us from getting married because it gave us so much more to think about."

"After the class we realized a lot more problems. Marriage is not all fun and



Wedding bells, wedding cake and flying rice happens twice for David Lowe and Marry Anne Higginbotham.

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Continued from Page 3

Marriage for the Second Time

games," Mary Anne added.

Both feel the class helped improve their relationship. Mary Anne explained: "We're both stubborn. But now we can sit down and

talk rationally."

"When we have an argument we hear each other out. Mrs. Reed (the Family Living teacher) emphasized constructive arguments and not destructive arguments. That means no name calling or blaming the other person," Dave said.

The class dressed up for the mock wedding. Mary Anne wore Dave's mother's wedding dress for the occasion. Another mother baked a wedding cake, rings were ex-

changed and the couple signed a certificate. The mothers of both the bride and groom attended the school wedding.

Even though she cried at the mock wedding, Mrs. Higginbotham managed to shake only on the inside at the church last Saturday. "I always cry at weddings," she explained.

Two hundred guests, six bridesmaids and six attendants complicated last Saturday's wedding much more than the mock wedding. Mary Anne wore her sister's wedding gown and the reception was held at the Deer Lake Racquet Club.

The Lowes have settled in Houston, Texas where Dave is employed for a cable television company. Mary Anne plans to seek employment after they are settled.

When Mary Anne met Dave for the first time in seventh grade she never expected that she would one day marry the "short chubby kid" she described in her diary -- and now she's done it twice!

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P215/75R15	68 ⁹⁵	2.93
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SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Events and Club Notes should be sent to The Reminder, 6569 Dixie Hwy., Clarkston 48016

ABWA Hold Auction

The Inde-Spring Charter Chapter of the American Business Women's Association will hold its monthly dinner meeting at 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 15, at Spring Lake Country Club in Clarkston. Following dinner Jan Patterson, Auctioneer, will auction the craft items, baked goods and holiday trims contributed by members of the group. The money from this project will be added to the scholarship fund. For information, call 634-7425.

Mime Troup Available

The Clarkston High School Mime troupe is available for parties, banquets, reunions, and schools. They're performers for any ages, three years old to adult. For more information, call 625-0900.

HFCC Plans Reunion


Henry Ford Community College is planning its first-ever reunion for students who attended the college anytime during the years 1964, 1965, 1966, 1967, 1968 or 1969.

The Office of Student Activities is in the process of tracking down students for those years. If you attended HFCC during those years, contact Stanley Vihtelic, director of student activities, at 271-2750, ext. 398.

The reunion is scheduled for May 15, 1982 in the Dearborn area.

Auditions for Plaza Suite

The Lakeland Players wish to invite everyone to open auditions for Neil Simon's "Plaza Suite" on December 14 and 15 at 7:00 p.m. at Mason Junior High in the auditorium.



Santa's Helper!

Village Book Store

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Children's Art Offered

Independence Parks and Recreation will be offering a children's art class beginning Wednesday, January 20, 1982. The class will be an introduction to basic drawing and design. The class will run for 6 weeks from 4:50 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Anyone interested in joining, should call the Recreation Department at 625-8223, for more information.

CAI Presents Films

The Waterford Township Branch Library and Community Activities, Incorporated (C.A.I.) will be presenting family Christmas films on December 29, at the C.A.I., 5640 Williams Lake Road in Waterford Township.

The "Littlest Angel, Mister Magoo's Christmas Carol, and How the Animals Discovered Christmas" will be shown from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Preregistration can be made by calling the Library at 673-6220 or the office at 674-4881.

CVP Presents "Spirit"

The Clarkston Village Players present "Spirit!" a sensitive comedy by Peg Kehret on December 4, 5, 6, 10, 11, and 12 at 8:30 p.m. except Sunday December 6 at 7:30 p.m. at the Depot Theatre, 4861 White Lake Rd., Clarkston.

Tickets are on sale at Tierra Arts and Design, 20 S. Main or by calling 363-0188.

The Thursday December 10 performance is a benefit for the Montgomery Developmental Training Center.

Director is Bob Arend. Denny Colwell will produce. Members of the cast are: Pat Thomas, Marlene Sewick, Lee Woolcox, Nancy Frady-Osmun, Chuck Haskins, Denny LaLone, Carol Arend and Ron Bereznicki.

Karate Demo Dec. 19

Lee's Black Belt Academy located in the Pontiac Y.M.C.A. at 131 University Drive will be holding a demonstration in the art of Tae Kwon Do (Korean Karate) at 7 p.m. on December 19. There is no charge, and it's open to the public. For more information, call 335-6116.

Adelines at Evola


The Waterford Sweet Adelines present a Christmas concert "Holiday Harmony" in cooperation with Evola Music Center at 6 p.m. Sunday, December 13 at Evola Music Center, Dixie Highway, Drayton Plains.

Tickets are available at the door.

Library Presents Films

Independence Township Library Pre-School Story Time is Tuesday, December 15 at 4:30 p.m. and Wednesday, December 16 at 11 a.m. Films will be "Over in the Meadow", a lesson in numbers and nature learned through a counting song, and "Leopold the See-Thru Crumbpicker", about an invisible dog.

After-School Movie Hour is Wednesday, December 16 at 4:30 p.m.



*Twas a few days before Christmas
And throughout all the land
I was busy looking for someone
That could possibly give me a hand.*

*A broken purse strap of Grandmas.
And a new leather hat for Dad
No matter who I turned to
I just knew I was being had.*

*After long and costly phone calls
And driving for miles around,
I came to the town of Oxford
And couldn't believe what I had found!*

*On the west side of Main Street
In this town of festive yule
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It was called "THE KICKIN' MULE"*

*He fixed up Grandma's purse strap
And put all my concerns to rest
After seeing Dad's new leather hat
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*He said "If you ever have this problem
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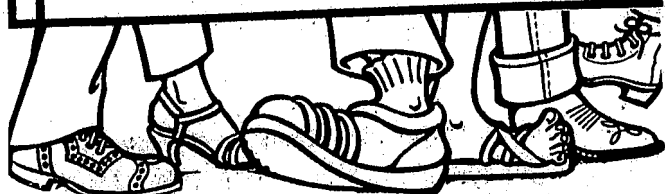
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It is often difficult to think about costs when a loved one dies. What matters most is helping the bereaved through their first days of grief.

But financial help is available to reduce the cost to the family of funeral services. For example, if you are covered by Social Security, you might be eligible for specific payments at the time of your spouse's death. Veterans of the armed forces are eligible for substantial death benefits from the Veterans Administration.

Life insurance policies have provisions for payment at the time of death. Loans may have life insurance policies incorporated in the contract. These should be kept in a safe place, readily accessible to one's family if they should be needed. (A safety deposit box is not a good storage place.) Be sure others know where you put them!

Finally, some trade associations may provide financial benefits for members who pass away. Check with the local organization.

Benefits at the time of death are subject to frequent change as laws are passed and the economy varies. We try to keep close track of these changes and can inform you of the latest rulings. If you would like more information, please call us or stop by.

Continued from Front Page

Smith Says Independence in Fine Shape

replaced by Anyers, Lewis, Norris & May of Ann Arbor, a firm with a strong engineering and planning background, according to Smith. Richard Carlisle is the firm's representative in Independence Township. Reasons for the change were cited as "partially a matter of costs and charges and partially a matter of thoroughness."

Yet another personnel change occurred in the past year when Timothy Palulian, head of the township building department, resigned to take a position in the private sector. "Palulian had put great effort into his job," Smith explained, "but he had another inviting job opportunity." It was fortunate for the township, Smith added, that Ken Delbridge was in a position to come back. "He is highly competent with great past experience with the township."

One of Smith's "campaign promises" was the establishment of task forces to better involve citizens in their government and to utilize the talents of those citizens. Thirteen months later, some are still at work, others are winding down their efforts, while still others are seeing their labors realized.

The Safety Path Committee, established by the Planning Commission when Smith was a member of that body, has seen phase I of the master plan completed. In the summer of 1980, township citizens voted .50 of a mill for ten years to create a network of paths for an energy-conscious community. Although commonplace in Europe, this concept is still somewhat unique in this country, Smith said. His is certain their value will be greater appreciated in the years to come.

The task force looking into public, arterial and private roads recommended the township authorize a professional study of M-15 traffic problems. That study is now being conducted by a private concern "free of pressures and sometimes alleged predeterminations of the state highway people," Smith said. It is jointly funded by the township and the village with a final report possible by the end of the first quarter of 1982. This task force has also brought together the two governmental bodies in matters of mutual and individual concern, he added. It continues to study having shifted



James Smith

of performance of the previous engineers...it appears we are receiving greater value for our dollar (with the present firm)," Smith said.

The second significant change came when township planner Tod Kilroy was

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its focus to private roads.

The Solid Waste Task Force apparently established itself early with the county as a group to be reckoned with and continues to closely monitor the development of the Oakland County master plan for its possible impact on Independence Township. While continuing to protect the township's interests, task force members are addressing the question of contract pickup and disposal services. This plan, according to Smith, has saved other townships as much as 30-40 percent and curtailed the problem of back road dumping.

The Community Center Committee, formed to serve the joint needs of the community and the school district, progressed to the physical planning stage with its work placed "temporarily in abeyance because of the present economic conditions."

The Public Safety Task Force has completed its work studying police, fire and emergency medical service and will likely present its report at the December 15 meeting. Their recommendations, Smith said, will be based on a great many meetings, interviews and studies of programs in similar townships.

A report from the Senior Citizen Task Force is anticipated in January. Smith said they have identified the needs of the township and recommendations will be made based on a great many meetings and site visitations. A survey by the committee is included in the latest edition of the township newsletter along with one compiled by the Cable Television Task Force. Smith hopes all citizens will read and respond to the surveys.

The Cable Television Task Force is in the process of drafting a letter to prospective vendors for approval by the township board within the next 30 days. The group will meet again once responses to that letter have been received.

Other township activities this past year include the purchase of property on Maybee Road for a proposed park. Despite initial problems with the question of property ownership, final purchase is due shortly. Despite concerns of Deer Lake residents earlier this summer, the new boat launch has been installed and Smith considers the matter laid to rest.

In the area of litigation, Independence continues to have its days in court, some cases inherited by Smith, some added during his first year in office. The Supervisor attributes the number of legal battles "to the township's reputation as a tough, quality township...We insist on government by law."

The township will continue court challenges on group adult foster care homes, he said, until the State Supreme Court makes a decision one way or the other. It is the township's contention these commercially operated homes belong in areas zoned multiple and not single family residential. They are not single families, they are caretaker facilities. There is no township objection to families who care of handicapped foster children or adults in their own homes.

Arcades, or electronic games establishments, have been hot items and hot issues lately in many areas; Independence Town-

ship is no exception. Local ordinance allows them in enclosed malls only as a principle use and in entertainment centers such as Howe's Lanes and the Deer Lake Racquet Club as an accessory use. Smith had no answer for the one found in a local grocery store. Presently, the ordinance is being studied "intensively" and the township is trying to work out a plan with the one proposed for a building on M-15, he said.

The condemnation suit continues with the Levy Company on 80 acres of land on Clarkston Road adjacent to Clintonwood Park. The development of the case has taken a great deal of time for both sides; delays have been encountered. A mid-march deadline is in effect for providing the necessary data with a pre-trial hearing likely in April, Smith reported.

The second dispute with the Levy Company over its plans for gravel mining near Independence Oaks County Park is virtually at a standstill, Smith revealed. The township is pressing the Department of Natural Resources for action, he continued, a decision should have followed last January's public hearing but attorneys for Levy continue to request delays for "alleged conferences with the township in pursuit of compromise." Smith said there has been no contact by the company or its attorneys. They have, however, "sought vigorously to influence concerned conservation groups, the Oakland County Parks and Recreation Commission among others, to modify their positions against the proposed gravel operation."

Smith was critical of what he termed the
Continued on Page 31

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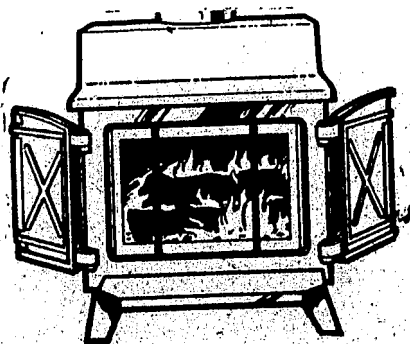
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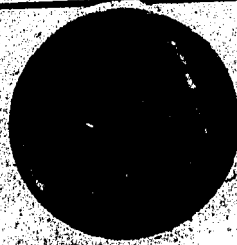
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